

## THE HAWAIIAN GAZETTE

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FOR THE MONTHLY MAIL STEAMER:



## Annual Review OF THE AGRICULTURE & COMMERCE OF THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS, THE YEAR 1875.

(Prepared Expressly for the Hawaiian Gazette.)

The year 1875 has been marked by an improvement in business generally, particularly towards the close. This is noticeable in the increased activity of all our agricultural interests, and the gain shown in our exports. As in the previous year our farmers have been exempt from distress, and we have not had to record a single hurricane or destructive storm such as we so frequently in other tropical climates. Our communication with foreign countries, by steam and sail packets, has been regular, and constantly improving, and promises to be even more so during the present year. What we now need most is a cable telegraph, connecting us with America, China and Australia. When this last around the world is completed, we shall lack nothing to place our marine and other industrial interests on the same footing with those of other countries. At present we are often compelled to wait for weeks to receive news or express answers, which in other countries may be done in a day.

### The Weather.

The harbor of Honolulu has not entered by the steamer Jackal, tender to the English ship Dalmatian, Captain Brown, in the year 1874. Captain Brown had visited the Oahu side, Kailua-kape, and in return for his services he informed me of the existence of a passage through the coral reef into the lagoon. Previous to this, ships had been accustomed to anchor in the Waikiki bay, where the anchorage was good, and where amidst the coconut groves of the adjacent region, the chiefs were fond of spending their time.

Of course at that time there were nothing more than banks of grass bases on the beach where the city of Honolulu now stands. The principal of these was called Koa which name is still applied by native writers to the city at the present time. The name Eloipoli is said to have been derived from the name of a famous two-point which was formerly situated in the upper part of the town.

The growth of the city has been slow, but steady, and the last ten years especially have been marked by great improvement both in public and private buildings. By the use of the concrete stones made from Portland cement, a style of architectural elegance has been attained hitherto impossible with the employment of brick, adobe and sand. The most conspicuous, as well as handsome of the public buildings is the new Government House, known as Aliiolani Hale, which was commenced in 1872, during the reign of Kamehameha V., and completed in two years, at the astronomically low cost of \$130,000 which includes \$12,000 paid for the land. The structure accommodates the Supreme Court, and the various offices of Government, and contains a large and handsome Legislative Hall. The stronger, even from the city of New York, is surprised at the architectural elegance and the completeness of the building, and that it could have been erected for so small a sum of money, when he recalls the fabulous amounts squandered on public works in his native city, completely stag-

ged.

The Hawaiian Hotel is another handsome building of concrete, which is situated near the center of the city, but at the same time in a quiet region, and standing as it does in the midst of large grounds which are shaded with ancient trees, the travel-worn voyager inevitably finds it the ideal of a tropical hotel—a hotel with all the conveniences of modern life, and alert attendance, combined with coolness, and shade, and opportunities for rest and repose. Among the other public buildings we would mention the Post-Office, which is also built of concrete stone, and is well adapted to the purpose for which it is intended, being used as a ornament to the town. The Kawaiahae church, a large edifice of coral stone which was built about thirty-five years ago, and is still one of the most conspicuous landmarks seen by the approaching vaporier. The Royal Mausoleum is a Gothic edifice, standing back of the city at the mouth of Nauau valley, and can be seen from a great distance at sea. The Queen's Hospital is one of the noblest structures of the country, and was founded by Kamehameha IV. The building stands at the foot of Punchbowl hill, a mile from the main thoroughfare, in the centre of extensive and well-kept grounds. Large numbers of visitors from all parts of the group, as well as foreign lands, usually find here relief, and health. The State-prison is one of the most noteworthy of the public buildings, and is generally conceded to be a model institution, being managed with an intelligent regard for the sanitary condition of its inmates. It stands on high ground a short distance north-west of the city, and has ample accommodations for over two hundred criminals.

The most remarkable change in the appearance of the city has been caused by the rapid growth of trees and vegetation. The resident of thirty years ago who knew the place as dry and desolate, with but a few gardens where by the use of windmills a scanty supply of water was obtained for irrigation, would hardly recognize the streets and avenues which to-day are shaded with large trees, and the residences which are now often completely embowered with foliage, and rare and beautiful flowers. This most pleasant change has been effected by means of the Nauau Valley water, which is brought down in pipes, and supplied to every dwelling. The large

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and sterile plain to the east of the city only requires an hour's labor to turn the soil, being speedily dotted with houses of native and refinement. The valley of Manoa can furnish an ample supply for all the plain, and we hope to see the work undertaken before long. The abundant supply of water, as well as the profuse growth of trees which has resulted from its introduction, forms a great safeguard against fire. In fact for many years fires have been confined to the buildings where they originated, and an extensive configuration in this city is hardly possible, except in those sections, where the houses are mostly of wood, and crowded thickly together.

The health of Honolulu is really good, the sources of other lands, such as cholera, yellow fever, small-pox, and scarlet-fever, being comparatively unknown. There is probably no country in the world where children enjoy greater immunity from disease, and where the death-rate among them is smaller than elsewhere.

This city being the commercial centre of the Hawaiian Islands, as well as a way-port for the ocean steamship lines which pass this way, is destined to a more rapid growth than has been heretofore witnessed. The wharves and warehouses are ample for a great extension of trade. Our wholesale and retail business is large, considering the population of the country. Society is cosmopolitan, and there is not therefore that degree of public spirit, and unanimity of sentiment, which is often desirable, but our public charities are ample, and it is often remarked that the generosity of Honolulu is unsurpassed. The "humble" Order of the city number ten, and here are besides at least seven societies devoted to the amelioration of distress. Although there are no public libraries, the intelligence of the white population is evinced by the large number of magazines and newspapers taken. Very good private libraries are also owned by many residents, and by some of the societies. Of local newspapers we have two English, and two Hawaiian weeklies, and one monthly. There is no excess of crime here; on the contrary life and property are safer than in older and more enlightened countries, and prosperity is almost unknown.

Rice.

For the past six years the exports of rice and sugar have steadily and rapidly increased, rising from 687,291 lbs. in 1870 to 2,130,234 lbs. in 1875. Nearly every pound of this goes to the Pacific Coast; the Pacific States, from their large population of Mongolians, requiring an immense supply. San Francisco imported during 1875, from various sources, 46,389,248 lbs. of rice, of which over 45,000,000 lbs. came from China. The removal of the duties on Hawaiian rice will enable us to undercut the imports from China, and will place this country in possession of an almost unlimited market, which will give a great impulse to its cultivation here.

Wool.

Over 465,000 lbs. of this staple have been exported during the year, which is a good advance over the preceding year, and is, with one exception the largest amount ever exported from the country during a single year. Our principal sheep raisers have manifested a most commendable enterprise in improving the breed of sheep; Morris, Gibson, Sinclair, Trouessart, Richardson, and others having introduced during the past year some twelve or fifteen Merino rams of the most renowned pedigree. In fact, Hawaiian wool exhibits a constant improvement in quality as well as quantity, and promises to become ere long a source of great wealth to the country.

Coffee.

This article is one of the most fluctuating of our exports. In 1874 only 75,436 lbs. were exported while last year the exports were more than doubled, amounting to 165,677. We have heard of no new plantations having been started of late, and the most of the coffee raised is by natives. But the remarks made by us last year still apply. If cultivated at a proper elevation, and in localities sheltered from the trade winds, there is nothing to be feared from blight. Hawaiian coffee takes a high rank abroad, and there is no doubt but that its reputation would improve if science and intelligence were brought to bear in its cultivation. There are on the four larger islands, several hundred thousand acres of land well adapted for coffee, which is now abandoned to cattle, and overgrown with bush and thicket. Nothing is lacking to make coffee a leading export, but men and capital.

Java.

The past year shows a considerable increase in this product over the average for the past six years. Some twelve or fourteen years ago the demand was large, and the exports reached nearly three-quarters of a million pounds per annum, but of late years it has been much diminished.

But there now appears to be quite a demand for it springing up in the Australian Colonies, more than half of the whole amount exported during 1875 having gone that way. As a substitute for feathers this article is unsurpassed, but it is too warm for our climate and consequently is not used here to any extent.

The Whaling Fleet.

Still continues to fall off in numbers, only nine whales having received burs last fall, in place of the fifteen of the preceding year, and it is probable that the present year will witness still further decrease. The following is the list of the whaleships with their catch:

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